

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Official Action mailed February 9, 2005.

In accordance with the instant amendment original claims 17, 32, 44, 46 and 47 have been canceled and new claims 49 – 53 substituted therefor. The new claims have been presented in clean form for convenience.

The allowability of original claims 17-22, 32, 44 and 46-47 is gratefully acknowledged. These allowable claims have been presented in clean form as claims 49 - 53, omitting the word “directly” in paragraph 4.

Claim 49 Corresponds to allowed original claim 17 of the application and is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 50 Corresponds to allowed original claim 32 of the application and is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 51 Corresponds to allowed original claim 44 of the application and is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 52 Corresponds to allowed original claim 46 of the application and is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 53 Corresponds to allowed original claim 47 of the application and is rewritten in independent form.

Generic claim 1 has been amended in a manner to more succinctly define the features of the present invention. Thus, features from claim 41 have been added to claim

1 plus additional features which are believed to more particularly define the present invention in combination with the detailed language of claim 1 so as to patentably define over the art. In accordance with amended claim 1 said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means.

“ - - - having a non-uniform region of variable cross section geometry at said common portion to engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to engage said duplex spoke engagement means - - - “.

This is believed to specifically define the engagement means in a manner not believed to be shown in the art and to define an improved engagement means. The non-uniform region of variable cross section as clearly shown in the drawings provides an efficient engagement means with a firm engagement between the duplex spoke and hub flange.

Claims 6, 25, 29-31, 43 and 48 have been amended to clarify the claim language. New claims 54-57 have been added as clearly supported herein. In addition, the word “directly” has been omitted from new claims 49-53.

The instant amendment is believed to clarify the issues and place the case in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted


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